

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

1st Named Inventor: David T. Jennings III	Group Art Unit:
Serial No.: 10/619,955	3641
Filed: 7/15/2003	Examiner:
Title: Status Flags in a System of Electronic Pyrotechnic Devices Such as Electronic Detonators	Jack W. Keith

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mailstop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of November 5, 2004 and the Office Communication dated January 13, 2005, the restriction requirement is traversed because it is submitted that MPEP 806.05(e) is not satisfied. First, the process as claimed can not be practiced by the cited Boucher (6,584,907) apparatus, which appears incompatible with step d) of method claim 1 (i.e., during the firing sequence, setting one or more status flags high). Second, there does not appear to be any reasonable basis for classifying the claims of group I in a different class than those of group II. Subclasses 200 and 206 of class 102 each apply to process and apparatus, and no plausible basis appears on which to distinguish the claim groups with respect to the actual definitions of the subclasses provided in the MPEP manual of classification.

It is therefore submitted that the restriction requirement has been convincingly traversed, shifting the burden to the Examiner to provide a viable basis or withdraw the requirement per MPEP 806.05(e). Pending withdrawal of the requirement, group II (apparatus, claims 8-20) is provisionally elected with traverse.

Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the attached correspondence(s) referenced above are being mailed as first class mail to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on **January 24, 2005**.

Signed: _____ / Thomas J. Brindisi /

Thomas J. Brindisi

With regard to the requirement of restriction to species A (Fig. 1 - unbranched bus) or B (Fig. 2 - branched bus), species A is elected for prosecution in this application. All pending claims (1-20) are generic to both species A and B.

It is noted that withdrawn claims are subject to reinstatement at such time as pertinent linking claims are found allowable. It is believed that no fees are due with the present response, but if any fees are required, it is hereby requested that such fees be charged to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 502502.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 24, 2005

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